

## ABSTRACT

Disclosed are methods, systems and services that utilize telephone system Central Office recognition of specifically programmed user-initiated signaling to turn on and to turn off one or more muting functions for transmission and/or receipt functions of the user's or another's telephone. Particular embodiments include the use of such methods, systems and services in multi-party conference calls, including where a leader of such conference call can, by pressing keypad commands, actuate the enabling and disabling of transmission and/or receipt paths for one or more other members of the conference call.